ting assistance from the Centre to build houses;

(b) whether all the State Housing Boards have been recognised by the Central Government;

(c) if not, what are the names of the State Housing Boards not recognised by the Central Government and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether every State Housing Board is to be treated equally; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to stop discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DAULAT RAM SARAN): (a) No direct assistance is available from Central Government to the State Housing Boards to build houses. Financial assistance to the Housing Boards is provided in Annual Plans of State Governments according to their priorities. However, national financial institutions including HUDCO and commercial banks provide loans to Housing Boards.

(b) to (e) The State Housing Boards have been constituted by the respective State Govts. under State legislation and hence the question of their recognition by the Central Govt. or of any discrimination does not arise.

Drought Prone Areas

44. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the drought-prone areas in the different States;

(b) whether Government have drawn up any scheme for assisting farmers in the drought-prone areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether it has been implemented in Orissa and if so, to what extent farmers have been benefited as a result thereof in that State during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) to (d) The Drought Prone Areas Programme operates in 91 districts of 13 States, the details of which are placed at Annexure.

[*See* Appendix CLVII, Annexure No. 3]

Under the programme, activities relating to soil conservation, land development, water resources conservation and development, afforestation and pasture etc. are taken up within an identified watershed and subsidies are available for specified activities for eligible categories of farmers on the basis of norms laid down.

The programme is under implementation in Orissa in 39 blocks of 4 districts namely, Phulbani, Kalahandi, Bolangir and Sambalpur. The financial and physical achievements under this programme in Orissa for the last 3 years are given at Annexures II & III.

[*See* Appendix CLVII, Annexure No. 3]

Review of Crop Insurance Scheme

45. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the Crop Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, on what lines;

(c) by when the above scheme is proposed to be reviewed; and

(d) the steps taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE